

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for the automatic generation of printable files for printed mailpieces from data in a database, said system comprising a printing system comprising at least one print processing component having at least one of a printer and a printable file processor, wherein

the printing system comprises at least one print job generation element,

the print job generation element ~~can be~~ being connected to a server via a first interface,

the server ~~can be~~ being connected to a database via a second interface, the database being located outside of the area of the printing system,

the print job generation element is capable of requesting and receiving data from the database, and data in the database constitutes jobs from users pertaining to the printing of mailpieces, and

the print job generation element ~~is capable of preparing~~ prepares the data from the database as a function of the requirements of the print processing component, and is ~~further capable of generating~~ generates printable files for printed mailpieces.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the print job generation element is a program on at least one computer of the printing system.

4. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the first interface is a SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) interface, while the server is a SOAP server.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 4, wherein the SOAP interface uses HTTP/HTTPS as a data transmission protocol.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the print job generation element can be connected to the server temporarily and/or permanently via the Internet.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the second interface is a PL/SQL (Procedural Language/Structured Query Language) layer.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for the automatic generation of printable files, for printing mailpieces, from data in a database, ~~by means of which wherein~~ the files are generated, printed out and/or further processed by a printing system comprising at least one print processing component and one print job generation element, the method comprising the following steps:

the print job generation element generating a first message that contains a call to a server for a specific method with parameters,

the print job generation element establishing a connection to the server via a first interface,

the print job generation element transmitting the first message to the server via the first interface,

the server processing the first message by calling the specific method with appertaining parameters,

the server establishing a connection to the database via a second interface, the database being located outside of the area of the printing system,

the server retrieving data from the database via the second interface, the data in the database constituting jobs from users pertaining to the printing of mailpieces,

the server sending the result of the call for the specific method in the form of a second message back to the print job generation element, and

the print job generation element generating at least one printable file for printed mailpieces from the result of the call for the specific method.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, comprising communicating between the print job generation element and the server takes place via a SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) interface.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, comprising communicating via an Apache SOAP API (Application Programming Interface).

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, comprising communicating between the server and the database takes place via a PL/SQL (Procedural Language/Structured Query Language) layer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 8, comprising
~~the steps of:~~

the print job generation element (15) generating a first message by calling an instance of a call class of an Apache SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) API (Application Programming Interface) and setting properties of this object,

the print job generation element transmitting the first message to the server, on the part of the server, a web server accepting the first message with the call and evaluating the first message,

associating the sent URL with the Apache SOAP API's RPC router-servlet where the server-SOAP object is known,

transmitting the call to this servlet,

the RPC router-servlet analyzing the first SOAP message, determining the class to be called and initiating the call,

calling the desired method with the transmitted parameters,

converting the return value into a second SOAP message and returning the message as a response via HTTP,

the instance of the call class on the client side analyzing the second message and returning the obtained result to the print job generation element.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 8, comprising the print job generation element checking at the start whether any updates are available on the server and updating its configuration automatically if an update is available.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 13, comprising transmitting a new processing file during the updating procedure.